



State of Utah

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DWS News Release

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UTAH'S EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: November 2005

Utah's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for November registered 4.0 percent, down over one full percentage point from the unemployment rate of 5.1 percent registered a year ago in November 2004. Approximately 49,900 Utahns were unemployed in November 2005 as compared to 61,000 in November 2004. October's unemployment rate is unrevised at 4.5 percent.

Utah's other primary indicator of current labor market conditions, the year-over change in the number of nonfarm wage and salaried jobs, registered 3.6 percent. This is a continuation of growth rates that have hovered in the mid 3-percent range for the past six months. October's growth rate has been revised up by 0.1 percentage point to 3.6 percent.

Mark Knold, Senior Economist for the Department of Workforce Services commented, "The Utah economy continues to produce steady employment growth. Therefore, the 'economic psychology' that dictates consumer spending decisions during the holiday season appears free from anxiety, especially with the strong drop in gasoline prices. With the economy growing as is — making sizable employment and income gains — consumers should be in an accommodating shopping mood this year."

Since November 2004, the United States economy has added 2 million new jobs — a growth rate of 1.5 percent. This is down from 1.8 percent just a few months ago before the twin hurricane impact, yet up from last month's 1.4-percent pace. Over the past month, Utah's economy added approximately 41,200 new jobs, a growth rate of 3.6 percent. The Utah additions represent about 2.1 percent of all the new jobs added in the United States over the past year. The United States' unemployment rate stayed even at 5.0 percent.

Construction and professional and business services continue to lead the way in employment growth. Trade/transportation/utilities, along with education and health services, stand out as areas with strong employment gains. All other industries continue to add workers in Utah, but at a more modest pace than the just-mentioned industries.

Construction has now added approximately 9,700 new jobs over the course of the last year. This volume of growth has increased steadily as 2005 has progressed and is now the highest rate of construction growth — 12.8 percent — seen in ten years. Along with solid housing growth, there are commercial and industrial projects aplenty. The largest volume of construction growth is in Salt Lake, Washington, Utah, and Davis counties. But across the entire state, there

are only a small number of counties that are not experiencing growth in their construction employment. Construction's gains are widespread across the state.

The professional and business services sector added 7,800 new jobs over the past year. This is the second largest increase of new jobs, but this sector's rate of growth is slowing a bit. It still presents a commendable 5.5 percent rate of growth, but that growth rate was 6 percent and higher looking back through much of 2005. This slowing is not an emerging sign of weakening in this industry. Instead, it is a reflection of comparing against a strengthening year-ago performance. Therefore, the gap between this year and last year will lessen, producing a decreasing growth rate.

The trade/transportation/utilities sector is the state's largest, employing nearly 234,000 workers. It has added approximately 6,800 new jobs over the past year, for a growth rate of 3.0 percent. Retail trade is the biggest component within this sector, and it generally draws much attention this time of year, as it is the focal point for the Christmas shopping season.

Overall employment in Utah fluctuates throughout any given year as seasonal activities come into play. The highest level of employment occurs in the last two months of the year, driven by the increased hiring by the retail industry in preparation for holiday spending. Employment levels in this sector will increase between October and December by 5,500 to 7,000 additional workers, depending upon the strength of that year's economic climate.

Last year the winter snow came early and abundantly. This year, the snow was late in arriving so the ski resorts did not see the Thanksgiving windfall that they enjoyed last year. Therefore, employment growth in the leisure and hospitality sector was not quite as robust as last November, when employment grew by 3.5 percent. This sector did grow by 2.1 percent this November, which is still growth, but the early-season employment needs of the ski resorts could not match last year's levels. Still, ski resorts are not a major portion of this sector. Hotels and food services are, and that is where the majority of the employment activity in this sector occurs. This is why a slow-starting ski season is not enough to hinder employment growth in this industry.

Employment gains in the manufacturing sector numbered roughly 1,900 over the past year. This is down a bit from slightly higher gains seen earlier this year. The sector is still growing, but the slower employment gains suggest some moderation within the manufacturing environment. Employment gains are seen in both the durable goods (goods with a useful life of three years or more) and nondurable goods (life of less than three years) areas. Durable goods employment gains are concentrated in, but not limited to, fabricated metal products, transportation equipment, and furniture. Nondurable gains are largest in chemical production, plastics and rubbers, and printing.

Utah's December employment numbers will be released at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2005.

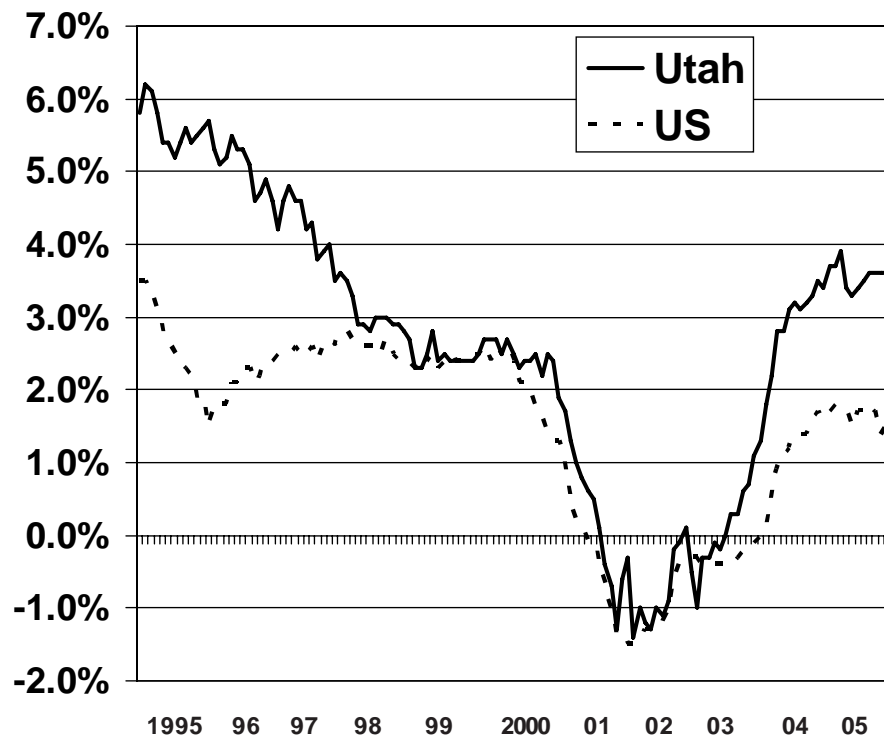
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Utah Nonagricultural Jobs by Industry and Components of the Labor Force

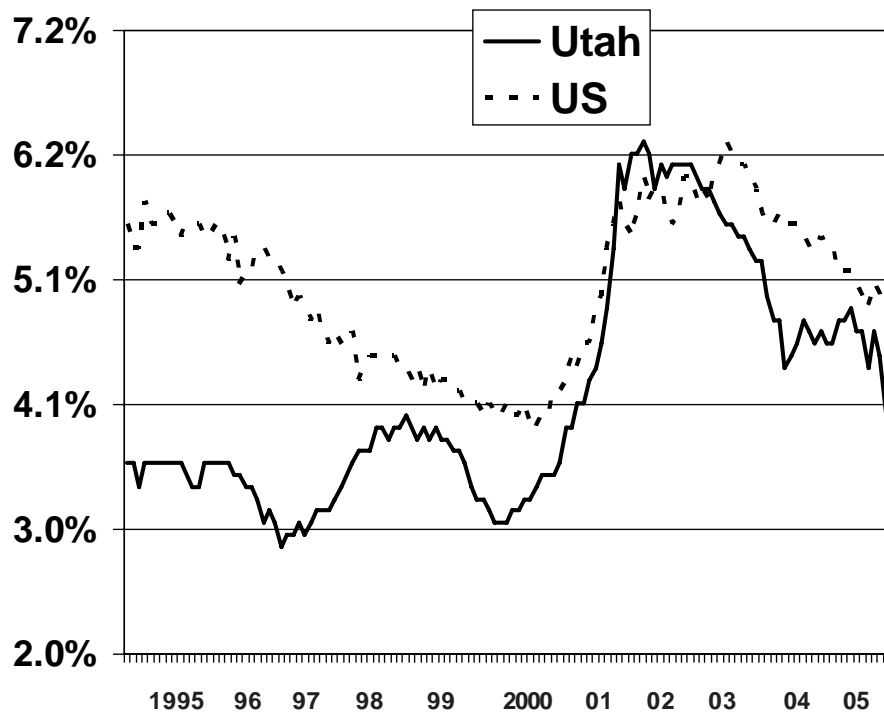
Numbers are in thousands and are <u>not seasonally adjusted.</u>	November(f) 2005	November 2004	Percentage Change	Oct.(r) 2005	Oct. 2004	Percentage Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	1,240.9	1,213.0	2.3	1,250.9	1,214.8	3.0
Employed	1,193.5	1,155.0	3.3	1,197.8	1,155.4	3.7
Unemployed	47.4	58.0	-18.3	53.1	59.4	-10.6
Unemployment Rate	3.8	4.8		4.2	4.9	
NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)	1,171.3	1,130.1	3.6	1,163.1	1,123.1	3.6
GOODS PRODUCING	212.7	200.0	6.3	213.8	200.5	6.6
Natural Resources, and Mining	8.4	7.4	13.4	8.3	7.5	11.4
Construction	85.7	76.0	12.8	86.8	77.1	12.6
Construction of Buildings	18.9	16.9	11.5	18.8	16.9	11.4
Heavy and Civil Engineering	9.0	8.0	11.6	9.6	8.5	
Specialty Trade Contractors	57.9	51.0	13.4	58.5	51.7	13.0
Manufacturing	118.5	116.6	1.6	118.7	115.9	2.3
Durable Goods	79.0	77.0	2.6	78.9	76.5	3.1
Primary and Fabricated Metals	15.2	14.7	3.3	15.2	14.6	4.2
Computer and Electronic Products	11.0	10.9	0.3	10.9	10.9	0.2
Transportation and Equipment Manufacturing	14.5	14.0	3.3	14.5	13.9	4.2
Non-Durable Goods	39.5	39.6	-0.2	39.8	39.5	0.9
Food Manufacturing	13.4	14.0	-4.6	13.5	14.0	-3.3
Printing and Related Support Activities	7.1	7.2	-1.1	7.1	7.0	1.0
SERVICES PROVIDING	958.7	930.1	3.1	949.3	922.6	2.9
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	233.8	227.0	3.0	227.0	222.0	2.2
Wholesale Trade	43.6	41.8	4.2	43.0	41.6	3.4
Retail Trade	142.6	139.5	2.2	136.7	134.9	1.3
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	16.8	16.5	2.0	17.0	16.6	2.5
Food and Beverage Stores	22.5	22.4	0.3	22.2	22.2	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	29.4	29.4	-0.1	27.3	27.5	-0.7
Transportation and Utilities	47.7	45.7	4.4	47.3	45.5	4.0
Utilities	4.0	3.9	1.1	4.0	3.9	0.7
Transportation & Warehousing	43.7	41.8	4.7	43.4	41.6	4.3
Air Transportation	6.8	6.0	14.4	6.8	5.9	14.0
Truck Transportation	17.6	17.6	-0.1	17.7	17.7	-0.1
Information	32.9	31.1	5.9	32.1	30.3	5.9
Publishing Industries	8.8	8.6	2.0	8.8	8.5	2.7
Motion Picture and Sound Recording	5.0	4.8	2.5	4.5	4.4	2.8
Telecommunications	5.9	5.7	3.0	6.0	5.8	3.9
Internet Service Providers	8.2	7.3	13.6	8.2	7.0	16.5
Financial Activities	67.8	66.0	2.7	67.3	65.6	2.6
Finance and Insurance	51.5	50.3	2.3	51.0	49.9	2.2
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	16.4	15.7	4.1	16.3	15.7	4.0
Professional and Business Services	149.2	141.4	5.5	149.3	141.5	5.5
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	55.8	52.3	6.6	55.6	52.3	6.4
Architectural, Engineering, and Related	10.7	10.1	6.4	10.7	10.1	6.0
Computer Systems Design and Related	12.1	11.4	6.9	11.9	11.2	5.9
Management of Companies and Enterprises	20.8	20.9	-0.6	21.0	20.9	0.5
Administration & Support						
& Waste Management & Remediation	72.6	68.2	6.5	72.7	68.3	6.4
Employment Services	25.3	22.1	14.5	24.8	21.7	13.9
Business Support Services	16.5	17.2	-4.4	16.4	16.8	-2.8
Education and Health Services	132.0	127.3	3.7	131.2	126.4	3.8
Educational Services	30.2	29.4	2.8	30.1	29.3	2.9
Health Services and Social Assistance	101.8	97.9	4.0	101.1	97.2	4.0
Ambulatory Health Care Services	38.8	36.9	5.2	38.7	36.7	5.4
Hospitals	29.4	28.7	2.5	29.2	28.5	2.3
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	19.1	18.4	3.7	19.0	18.2	4.3
Social Assistance	14.4	13.9	3.8	14.3	13.8	3.7
Leisure and Hospitality	103.2	101.1	2.1	103.1	101.0	2.0
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	16.1	15.7	2.3	15.5	15.1	2.3
Accommodation and Food Services	87.1	85.3	2.0	87.6	85.9	2.0
Accommodation	16.2	15.7	3.2	16.3	15.9	2.6
Food Services and Drinking Places	70.9	69.7	1.8	71.2	70.0	1.8
Other Services	33.4	32.9	1.4	33.2	32.8	1.4
Government	206.5	203.4	1.5	206.1	203.0	1.5
Federal Government	34.7	34.6	0.3	34.7	34.6	0.3
Federal Defense	16.5	16.0	2.9	16.3	15.9	2.6
Other Federal Government	18.2	18.6	-1.9	18.4	18.7	-1.7
State Government	65.0	63.0	3.3	64.6	62.6	3.2
State Schools	36.2	35.4	2.3	35.9	35.1	2.3
Other State Government	28.8	27.6	4.5	28.7	27.5	4.4
Local Government	106.8	105.8	0.9	106.8	105.8	0.9
Local Education	63.6	62.7	1.5	62.8	61.8	1.7
Other Local Government	43.1	43.2	-0.1	44.0	44.1	-0.2

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services f = forecast r = revised December 13, 2005

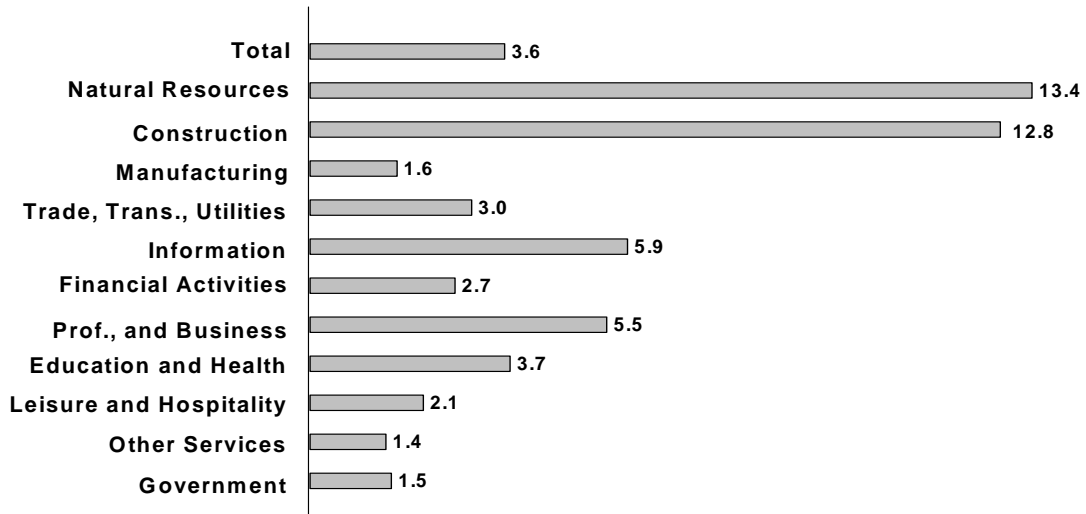
Year-Over Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs



Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

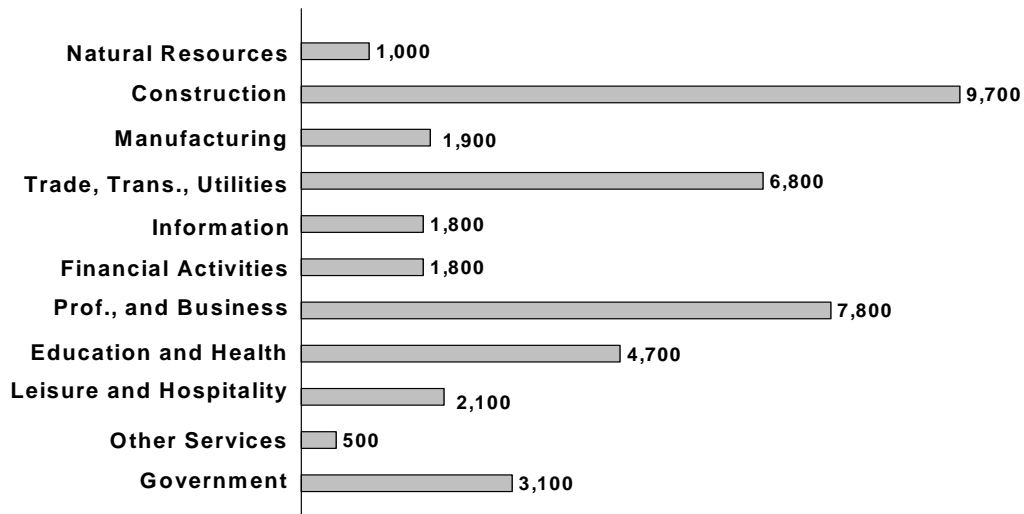


Utah Nonfarm Job Growth (Percent Change) November 2004 – 2005



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

Utah Nonfarm Job Growth (Numeric Change) November 2004 – 2005



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT IN UTAH'S COUNTIES

	November 2005(f)	November 2004	Percent Change	Oct. 2005(r)	Sept. 2005(r)
State Total	1,171,335	1,130,051	3.7	1,157,450	1,142,958
Bear River	67,963	66,576	2.1	67,252	65,269
Box Elder	18,721	18,470	1.4	18,668	18,811
Cache	48,700	47,524	2.5	47,850	45,600
Rich	542	582	-6.9	734	859
Wasatch Front	771,870	747,046	3.3	761,102	758,256
North	193,873	187,795	3.2	191,174	190,750
Davis	99,197	95,217	4.2	98,008	97,939
Morgan	1,790	1,857	-3.6	1,882	1,895
Weber	92,886	90,721	2.4	91,284	90,916
South	577,997	559,251	3.4	569,928	567,506
Salt Lake	564,029	546,654	3.2	555,781	553,367
Tooele	13,968	12,597	10.9	14,147	14,139
Mountainland	197,550	189,144	4.4	194,109	187,967
Summit	18,692	17,306	8.0	17,878	18,188
Utah	172,834	166,344	3.9	170,011	163,973
Wasatch	6,024	5,494	9.6	6,220	5,806
Central	22,951	22,758	0.8	23,280	22,507
Juab	3,254	2,917	11.6	3,237	3,267
Millard	3,788	3,812	-0.6	3,823	3,690
Piute	333	347	-4.1	317	320
Sanpete	7,169	7,134	0.5	7,155	6,431
Sevier	7,479	7,618	-1.8	7,638	7,649
Wayne	928	930	-0.2	1,110	1,150
Southwestern	71,859	66,958	7.3	71,581	69,081
Beaver	1,865	1,872	-0.4	1,907	1,958
Garfield	2,061	2,022	1.9	2,637	2,689
Iron	16,758	15,786	6.2	16,235	14,772
Kane	2,684	2,725	-1.5	3,154	3,211
Washington	48,491	44,553	8.8	47,649	46,450
Uintah Basin	18,162	17,138	6.0	18,423	18,112
Daggett	392	397	-1.2	511	541
Duchesne	5,855	5,579	5.0	5,774	5,887
Uintah	11,914	11,162	6.7	12,138	11,683
Southeastern	20,980	20,431	2.7	21,703	21,767
Carbon	9,138	8,788	4.0	9,048	8,885
Emery	3,803	3,778	0.7	3,863	3,891
Grand	4,113	3,998	2.9	4,674	4,785
San Juan	3,926	3,867	1.5	4,119	4,206

f = forecast r = revised but not final.

Note: Numbers have been left unrounded for convenience rather than to denote accuracy.

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Information, 12/13/05